

Three fish hatcheries are engaged in the artificial propagation of pickerel and whitefish on commercial fishing lakes and a trout hatchery provides a supply of lake, rainbow and speckled trout for sport fishing waters at the northern extremity of West Hawk Lake in Whiteshell Provincial Park.

Saskatchewan.—Approximately 32,000 sq. miles of water area provide the basis for the fishery industry of Saskatchewan. Whereas the commercial industry is concentrated in the northern half of the province, the water bodies in the south are important to the tremendous recreational development now taking place. The Fisheries Branch of the Department of Natural Resources, with head office at Prince Albert, is responsible for the administration of this resource.

The commercial fishing industry in 1957-58 enjoyed one of its most productive years with approximately 11,000,000 lb. taken from 132 lakes. The principal species were whitefish, lake trout, pickerel, sturgeon and cisco. The 11 filleting plants, one of which is owned by a fishermen's co-operative, have done much to stabilize the commercial fishing industry by preparing for market a high-quality, ready-to-cook product.

During the year there were 94 licences issued to owners of fur farms who used about 5,500,000 lb. of coarse fish (cisco, burbot, mullet). Also 935 domestic fishing licences were issued and 1,911 free Indian permits. The recreational value of the fisheries has been increasing significantly. In 1958 the total number of angling licences sold was 107,322, of which 100,000 were purchased by Saskatchewan residents.

The expansion of commercial and recreational fishing emphasizes the importance of the research program started ten years ago, which was planned to cover the needs of the management of this resource for both fundamental and applied information. Its three phases include (1) research projects—consisting of the basic productivity of larger lakes and streams and the ecological characteristics of the main species of fish; (2) experimental projects—establishment of rainbow trout and largemouth bass in various southern reservoirs; and (3) management procedures—creel census studies and pollution investigations.

New quarters have been provided recently for the Fisheries Laboratory in the Saskatchewan Research Council Building at the University of Saskatchewan. There are five permanent biologists on staff and usually 12 university students are employed each summer on biological surveys. A new fish cultural station has been completed at Fort Qu'Appelle for the hatching of pickerel, rainbow, brown and lake trout and rearing facilities are being built for various types of game trout. An experimental hatchery is operated at Lac la Ronge where Arctic grayling and lake trout eggs have been hatched. Spawn camps are operated for the taking of pickerel eggs at Lac la Ronge and Arctic grayling eggs at Black Lake, located east of Lake Athabasca. Efforts are being continued to extend the range of the Arctic grayling species from the Far North into the Churchill River area and particular success was noted in the establishment of Arctic grayling in a water body west of North Battleford which is located below the 53rd parallel. Rainbow trout have been successfully established in a number of smaller reservoirs in the southern part of the province.

The Fisheries Branch maintains a program of dissemination of information to the public on the various fisheries management programs and policies.

Alberta.—Commercial and game fishing are administered by the Fish and Game Branch of the Department of Lands and Forests under the authority of the Fisheries Act (Canada) and the Fishery Act (Alberta).